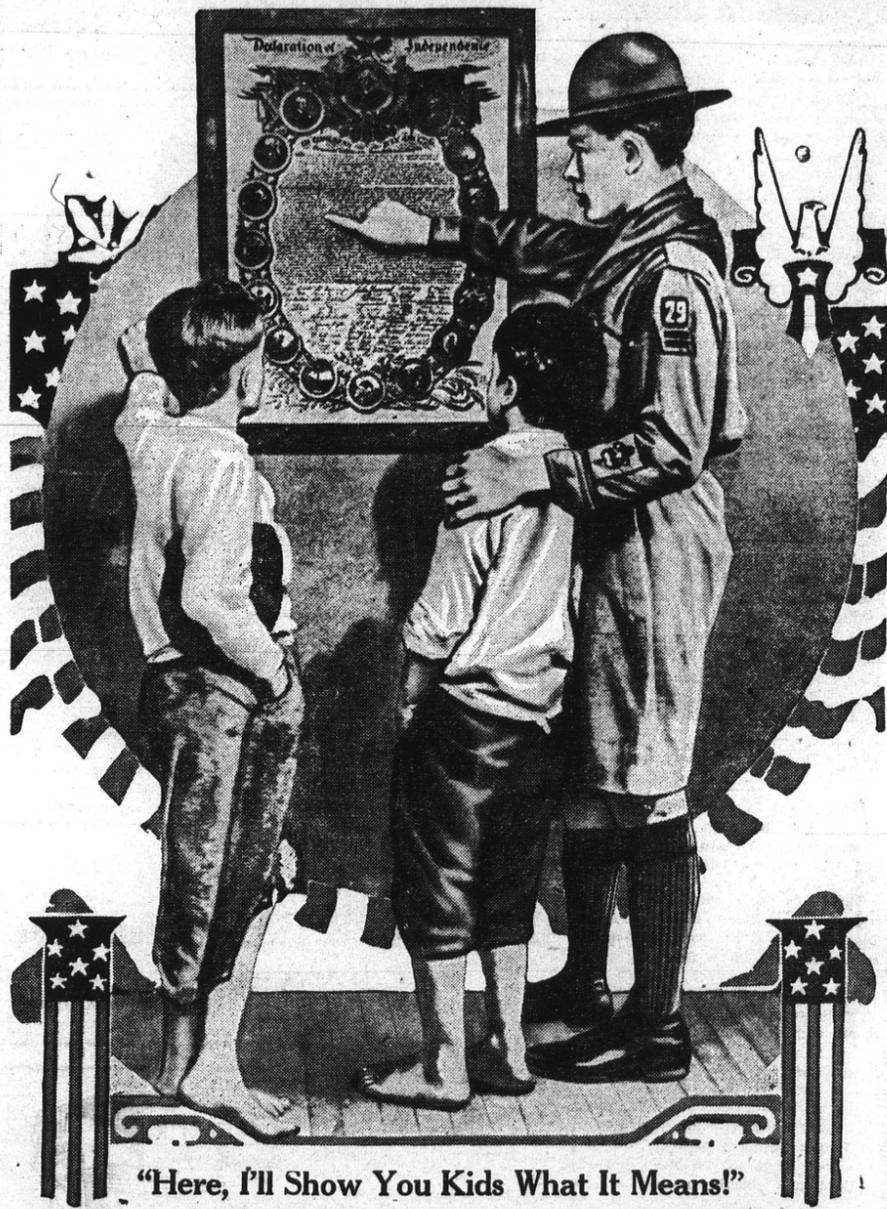


MY COUNTRY 'TIS OF THEE

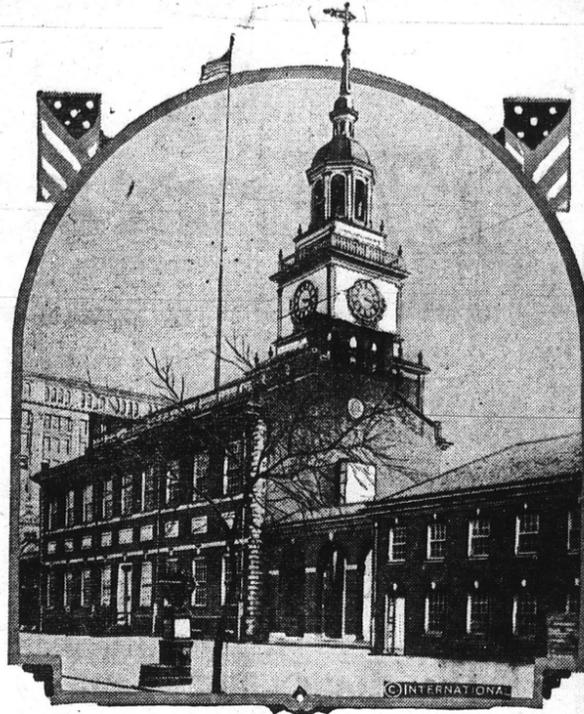


"Here, I'll Show You Kids What It Means!"

—Detroit Free Press.



Famous Building Intertwined With Country's History



Rich in Noble Memories



A building of serenity and symmetry, of fine amplitude, a gracious, alluring building, rich in noble memories, yet touched also with a living sweetness; such is the beautiful old State house in Philadelphia, often referred to as Independence hall. And it stood here, and was even then a building of age and dignity, when Sir Walter Scott said to Washington Irving, with a tolerant condescension which he meant to be flattering, "The vast aboriginal trees that have sheltered the Indians before the intrusion of the white man, are the monuments and antiquities of your country!" Scott was quite ignorant of the fact that America had architecture; to him, our country had merely trees, although this building, and some other American buildings, were richer in beauty and in noble association than quite a number of those in his own land of which he wrote with such enthusiasm.

Scott was deeply impressed by the thought of our illimitable forests. He longed to see one, as Dickens longed to see an American prairie. And had Scott come over here, and had he seen not only a forest but this State house, his imagination would have been fired, and he might have written a great novel about America, rich in details of the Revolutionary leaders, with the picturesque John Hancock, in scarlet coat and cocked hat with black cockade, entering this building to preside at the signing of the Declaration.

Beautiful in Many Ways.
The State house, "Independence Hall," was planned in 1729 and completed, except as to wing and tower, five years later; quite old enough, one sees, to satisfy even a Walter Scott! But it must not be thought that it is beautiful or interesting principally on account of age. Age adds to a beautiful building the salt and savor of time,

the romantic patina, literal or metaphorical, that comes with the decades. But this State house is beautiful in itself; it was beautiful when it was young and new; it will remain beautiful as long as it stands, with its traditions growing more interesting with time. After all, Philadelphia was the largest and richest Colonial city of Great Britain, and so it was natural that a fine administrative structure should be built here. And it was put up in the same period which saw the construction of two other admirable state houses, that of Boston (not the stately pillared building of the present time, but the delightful ancient state house), and the charming State house of Annapolis. All three are lessons in good taste, in positive beauty. And the Philadelphia structure is the finest of the three.

The State house is a beautiful building, alike in its mass effects and in its smallest details, in the views of it from the exterior or in rooms within. Its facade is exactly centered, and similarly winged and arched at right and left. It is beautiful and it is balanced.

Viewed From the Outside.
Seen from Independence square, which is a large open space, stone paved, with intervening surfaces of grass and fair-sized trees, it is a towered building of time-mellowed brick, with white window stones, with smallish pillared doorway beneath a tower built outside the lines of the main building, and, over this doorway, a splendid Palladian window. Above are cornices, and a fetching, bulging, bow-fronted window, and above this is a clock-tower, square at the bottom and rising in eight-sided diminutions to a six-sided narrow pinnacle which is topped by a trident-like weathervane of gilt.

Enter beneath the triple Palladian window, with its heavy muntins, and passing by the foot of the finest stairs in America, you enter a broad and brick-paved central hall; and there comes the sense of a glory of white, with touches of mahogany and darkish green.

The rooms are serenely beautiful; they are dignified, large and light; there are pillars and pilasters, there are charming cornices, there are panels; in every direction one sees beautiful corners or vistas or entrance-

ways. The views through the arches of the room of the Supreme court, into and across the Hall of the Signing, defined by those three pillared arches, is astonishingly effective.

At the foot of the wonderful stairs now stands the Liberty bell, upon which may still be read the Bible verse which long before the Revolution was cast upon it by its makers: "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land, upon all the inhabitants thereof."

Many Lovely Vistas.
The stair mounts, ramp by ramp, within the great tower; a broad stair with broad treads and low risers; and on the second floor, as on the first, there are everywhere long and lovely vistas of distinction. And on the second floor is a great banquet hall, entered through a delicately bell-flowered doorway topped by a beautiful fanlight, occupying the entire length of the building; and at each end of the great room is a broad fireplace, with the intent that the two shall flicker at each other with finesse of effect.

A tang of especial distinction is given to the admirable Chestnut street face of the State house by the unusually high keystones, of marble, which center the brick above each of the ample windows and rise into a band of dark gray marble that extends across the entire one hundred and seven feet of the building's front; and by a line, above this band, of nine panels of marble, beneath the windows of the second floor. The quoins on the corners, and the fine wooden cornice and balustrade, add still further distinction; and in all it is a noble and distinguished building, rich in noble and distinguished memories.

—Robert Shackleton in "The Book of Philadelphia."



Constitution Into Effect in 1789.
The federal Constitution was framed by the constitution convention which met in Philadelphia May 25, 1787, and adjourned September 17, 1787, and it went into effect March 4, 1789, having been ratified by eleven of the thirteen states, the others, North Carolina and Rhode Island, ratifying it November 21, 1789, and May 29, 1790, respectively.

American Principles and Ideals

It has been said that patriotism must be an intelligent patriotism; there is much that passes for it that is not intelligent, and some that falls within Dr. Johnson's definition: "Patriotism is the last refuge of a scoundrel." Nothing is easier than to be patriotic when it is simply a question of going with the crowd. But more than this is required—disinterested service, a full discharge of the duties of citizenship (even to the honest paying of taxes), independence and courage in the exercise of the right to vote, obedience to the law, etc. There must be service by outward act and deed, and not mere lip service, asserts a writer in the Indianapolis News. But service implies knowledge. The apostle said:

"For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day."

"I know whom I have believed." One who believes in America must know America, and the more one knows her the more intense will be one's faith and the more devoted one's service. America, after all, is nothing more than the people who call them-

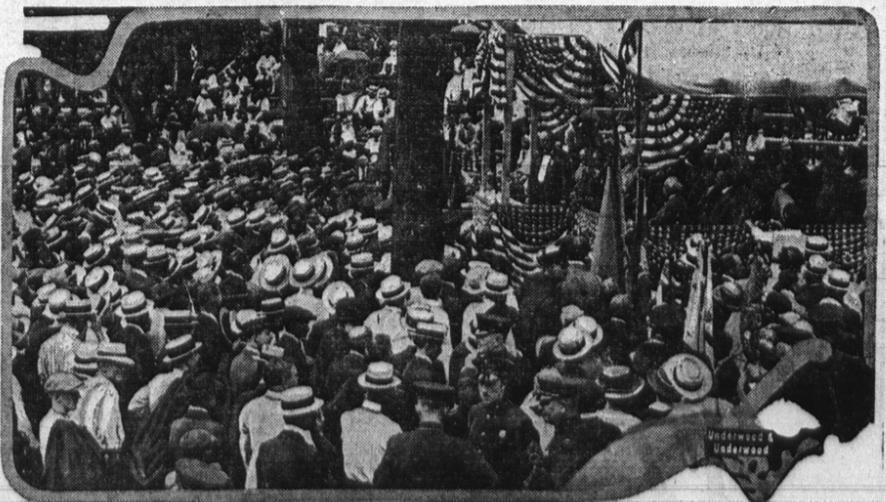
selves Americans, for ideas and ideals do not merely float in the air—they are incarnated in men and women, and by men and women they are applied to life. Principles are of no value till they are acted on, and they must be acted on by people. The memories and traditions of which something has been said all attach to people, and the history of the country which is a part of it today was made by people. It is into the labors of very real people that we of the present time have entered. The problem, therefore, is one of keeping Americans true, not solely to the flag, but to the flag as the symbol of a great national life. Into that life it is necessary to enter, in it men must share. The more complete their participation the greater will be their love of their country—and their love of it for what it really is, and of all that it stands for. A patriotism thus enlightened and inspired will, as has been said, be close of kin to religion.

Preserve Faith and Hope.
It is not boasting to magnify one's blessings, or to dwell lovingly and proudly on the principles and ideals which are American. It is necessary indeed to do this, since there are some unhappy souls who see nothing good in America, and who are even yet looking to Russia for inspiration and salvation. Nothing can be done with or for such, but it may be possible to prevent others from being led astray through ignorance of what America truly is. The American people have been impervious to the incursions of Bolshevism, not because they are dull and stupid, but rather because they are satisfied, and have reason to be. They know their America well enough to know that there is no country in the world in which opportunity is more freely offered, none which comes so

near being the country of the average man.

Many Things to Learn.
On the nation's birthday, therefore, the American people should pledge themselves to greater devotion to American ideals, to more loyal and unselfish service, and to stricter conformity to those great principles which lie at the basis of the nation's life. There is great need for education, since much of the failure to appreciate this country is due to a pitiable ignorance of its history, its institutions, and of all that America has throughout its life stood for. And this ignorance is often the densest in the minds of those who think of themselves as reformers, and who indeed are allowed to pose as such. Men need to be very sure that they know what liberty, as won by people of the Anglican race, is, and what are its safeguards. It is particularly necessary that they should understand the right of minorities, and should realize that there is such a thing as the despotism of majorities. There are some things that a vote of the majority cannot be allowed to sanction, as our constitution recognizes. Perhaps this is one of the most important lessons to be learned, as it seems to be the most difficult to bring home to men. The very restraints of which the uninformed so often complain have no other purpose than to protect the helpless against the strong. And this is a part of Americanism. So we approach another Fourth of July. The world is in a sad state, and even in fortunate America all things are not as we should like to have them "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure," and it is not likely to be shaken.

WE THEREFORE, the representatives of the United States of America in General Congress Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name, and by authority of the good people of these colonies, solemnly publish and declare, that these united colonies are, and of right ought to be, Free and Independent States; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British crown, and that all political connection between them and the state of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full power to levy war, conclude peace, contract alliances, establish commerce, and to do all other acts and things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.



Crowd Listening to the Late Senator Knox Deliver Independence Day Address, at Independence Hall, Last Year.